

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



The Oklahoma Association for Career and Technical Education, OkACTE, advocates for policy and legislation that best serves and protects the integrity of the Oklahoma Career and Technology system. Our legislative priorities reflect our commitment to fostering a skilled workforce and strengthening Oklahoma's economy.

## Graduation Requirements

Support a single set of minimum Oklahoma high school curriculum requirements that include CTE courses and programs as allowable equivalents toward graduation.

Support allowing certain CTE courses to count as graduation requirements. Examples include:

- Upper-level Agricultural Education courses to count for a science or math credit.
- Ag Power or Horticulture course to count for a fine arts credit.
- Consumer Ed courses to count for the financial literacy requirement.
- Approved business math courses to count for a math credit.
- Family Consumer Sciences courses to count for a math or science credit.
- Allow the pre-requisite class Introduction to Agriscience (previously Ag I) to be offered to 8th grade students.

Oppose any additional graduation requirements that would limit student access to CareerTech courses.

Support alternative pathways for individuals to demonstrate high school equivalency skills through a combination of academic, life skills, and work-based experience.

## Career Development & Academic Success

Support legislation that ensures that Oklahoma's Promise is available to all eligible students including those who participate in high quality career and technical education programs at technology centers.

## Workforce

Support legislation that reduces employer risk when partnering with educational entities to provide work-based learning opportunities for students.

Support legislation encouraging articulation of credits between CareerTech and higher ed.

Support legislation that removes citizenship requirements from licensing in various trades/careers.

## Funding

Support full funding of the Oklahoma Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund.

Support increased funding to existing and new career tech programs.

Support legislation to adjust the state minimum salary schedule from a 25-year basis to a 40-year basis with a \$600-\$700 annual increase for years 26-40.

Continue to support and encourage increasing teacher pay to regional average or above.

Support increasing the 411 program teacher salary supplements.

## Retirement

Support a cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) for all TRS retirees.

Support legislation that removes the salary cap on retired teachers who want to re-enter the classroom and still draw teacher retirement.

Ensure teachers' retirement remains a defined benefit plan.



# APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FY25

## Investing in Oklahoma's Workforce



### **FY24 General Appropriation . . . . . \$160,206,568**

▶ **Meet the statutory requirement of funding the flex benefit allowance for the technology centers (Title 70. Schools §70-26-104) . . . . . \$1,500,000**

▶ **Workforce Training . . . . . \$37,000,000**  
Investment in meeting the increased need for a trained workforce. Our goal is to increase full-time program enrollments by 10,000 over the next five years.

» Health Careers Training . . . . . \$10,500,000  
 ✦ Impacting growth of 28 programs  
 ✦ Impacting additions of 19 programs

» Construction Trades Training . . . . . \$8,100,000  
 ✦ Impacting growth of 21 programs  
 ✦ Impacting additions of 17 programs

» Manufacturing Occupational Training . . . . . \$7,600,000  
 ✦ Impacting growth of 21 programs  
 ✦ Impacting additions of 16 programs

» Ten Additional Student Pathways . . . . . \$10,800,000  
 ✦ Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources  
 ✦ Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications  
 ✦ Business, Management and Administration  
 ✦ Education and Training  
 ✦ Energy  
 ✦ Hospitality and Tourism  
 ✦ Human Services  
 ✦ Information Technology  
 ✦ Public Safety  
 ✦ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

▶ **Incarcerated Individual Workforce Training . . . . . \$750,000**

» Increased transition services for inmates re-entering society . . . . . \$300,000

» Construction Trades Training . . . . . \$450,000

▶ **Empower Oklahoma by CareerTech. . . . . \$2,000,000**

Through partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma CareerTech will expand training programs for low-income individuals to include those who receive SNAP benefits.

▶ **Career and Technology Expansion Program . . . . . \$500,000**

One-time allocations available to technology centers for expansion of programs into areas of Oklahoma that are not currently served by a technology center.

**Total FY25 Appropriations Increase Requested. . . . . \$41,750,000**

### **TOTAL FY25 Appropriations Request . . . . . \$201,956,568**